

Timeline and Checklist

In preparing for your upcoming Earthwatch expedition, please ensure that you:

Immediately

- Read this Expedition Briefing and all enclosed materials thoroughly.
- Book an appointment with a doctor; you will need him or her to sign the Health section of your Earthwatch Participation Form.
- Make sure you understand and agree to Earthwatch policies and participant responsibilities.

At least 90 days prior to your expedition start date

Complete and return your volunteer forms. **Below are the specific forms required for this expedition:**

- Earthwatch Participation Form for Adults
- Travel Form

European volunteers can download forms on: earthwatch.org/europe/volunteerforms

U.S./North American volunteers can download forms at: earthwatch.org/volunteerforms

Australian volunteers can download forms on: earthwatch.org/australia/expeditions/volunteer_forms/

Japanese volunteers can download forms on: earthwatch.jp/getinvolved/condition/formdownload-i.html

- Pay any outstanding balance on the minimum contribution for your expedition.
- Book travel arrangements (see the *Rendezvous* section for details).
- If you plan to purchase additional travel insurance, note that some policies require purchase when your expedition is booked (see the *Insurance* section for more information).
- If traveling internationally, make sure your passport is current and obtain a visa for your destination country, if necessary (see the *Passports and Visas* section for more details).
- Make sure you have all the necessary vaccinations for your project site (see the *Health Information* section).
- Purchase a guide book for your destination country.
- Bring your level of fitness up to the standards required (see the *Project Conditions* section).

At least 60 days prior to your expedition start date

- Review the packing list to make sure you have all the clothing and any special equipment needed.
- Obtain any necessary prescription medications that will be needed for your travels.

Up to 30 days before you leave for the expedition

- Read any required reading or websites recommended by the Earthwatch scientist(s) for your expedition.
- Make sure you have enough personal funds for your expedition (see the *Travel Planning* section).
- Leave the Earthwatch emergency contact number with a friend or relative (see the *Emergency Contacts* section).
- Leave a copy of your passport, visas and airline tickets with a friend or relative.
- Confirm your travel arrangements.

Note: If you have signed up for an expedition within 90 days of the start date, you must return your fully completed volunteer forms as soon as possible.

Origins of Angkor

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General Information

Project title	Origins of Angkor		
Earthwatch scientists	Dr. Nigel Chang , James Cook University, Australia Dr. Kate Domett , James Cook University, Australia Dr. Bill Boyd , Southern Cross University, Australia		
Research site	Ban Non Wat, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand		
Expedition length:	14/7/8 days	Minimum age of participation:	18 years of age*
Team size max:	8 participants		

***Note:** It may be possible for 16- and 17-year-olds to participate on standard teams if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Contact Earthwatch for more information and see *Volunteers Under 18 Years of Age* in the *Passports and Visas* section for traveling advice for minors.

Emergency Contacts

Emergency contact number at Earthwatch in the U.K.:

+44 (0) 7900-895-752

A duty officer is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist you. If you reach voicemail, state that you have an emergency communication and leave a clear message with the name of the field program, your name, the location from which you are calling, and, if possible, a phone number where you can be reached. An Earthwatch staff person will respond to your call within one hour.

You may also call Earthwatch in the U.S.:

+1 (978) 461-0081

After business hours, leave your message with our live answering service who will contact an Earthwatch staff person who will respond to your call.

Emergency medical and evacuation assistance provider:

To contact International SOS in the event of an emergency, dial:

- For assistance **within the U.S.:** ISOS Philadelphia, +1 (215) 942-8459
- For assistance **outside the U.S.:** ISOS London, +44 (0) 208-762-8008
- For assistance **within Australia:** ISOS Australasia, +61 (0) 2-9372-2468

State that you are on an Earthwatch expedition. The following information must be provided:

1. The Insured Person's name
2. The Assured is **EARTHWATCH**, the Certificate No: **GP 0010214** and SOS reference **#14ACPA000075**
3. The telephone number and facsimile number where the Insured Person can be reached
4. The Insured Person's address abroad
5. The nature of the emergency



Dear Earthwatcher,

Welcome to Earthwatch! We greatly appreciate your decision to contribute to hands-on environmental science and conservation. As an Earthwatch volunteer, you have the opportunity to create positive change. Each year we connect thousands of people just like you with research projects—approximately 65 projects in more than 35 countries—where they can participate in the fieldwork necessary to understand and help an array of species, habitats and cultures. These projects focus on: **climate change, cultural heritage, ecosystem services and oceans.**

We are committed to caring for the safety of all those involved in our activities anywhere in the world. Although risk is an inherent part of the environments in which we work, through careful risk management and diligent planning we believe that all participants can have educational and inspirational Earthwatch experiences. We've been providing volunteer field experiences **for 40 years**, so you're in good hands.

It is essential that you carefully read your Expedition Briefing and fully complete the volunteer forms so that you are prepared. Your Expedition Briefing includes important information such as instructions for reaching the rendezvous point, what risks are present on the research project and how to avoid them, what to pack, what immunizations you need, how to physically prepare for your expedition, and more. It also explains the research being conducted on the project, why it's important, and what role you'll play as an Earthwatch volunteer.

Well-prepared volunteers are better able to enjoy the unique and exciting experiences that an Earthwatch expedition offers and will be more helpful to the scientists' important work. Open-mindedness, the ability to work on a team, and a desire to learn are all keys to a successful and enjoyable Earthwatch experience. We hope this expedition will inspire you to get more involved in conservation and sustainable development priorities—not just out in the field but also when you return home. We encourage you to share your experiences with others, and to transfer your skills and enthusiasm to environmental conservation efforts in your workplace, community and home.

If you have questions as you prepare for your expedition, contact your Earthwatch office. Thank you for your support, and enjoy your expedition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Wilson", written in a cursive style.

Ed Wilson
President and CEO



Dear Volunteer,

Welcome to the 2012 season at Ban Non Wat!

We are particularly excited about this year's fieldwork, as it represents the beginning of a completely new phase in the archaeology of the area. Earthwatch-funded projects have been working in this part of northeast Thailand since 1995. We have been based at Ban Non Wat since 2002, with the current project running since 2007. This year we will be building on this long experience and taking the first step along a new research path with key aims around increasing our engagement with the local community, doing a lot of experimental work—specially on making pottery as it might have been done thousands of years ago—and completing detailed surveys in the local area as we locate new sites for excavation in upcoming seasons.

We have a wide range of activities that we will be asking for your help to complete. One that I think will be both very important, and a lot of fun, will be making pots. We will be inviting older people from the region with traditional pottery-making skills to teach us. At the same time, we will collect clay and other required materials from across the region and we will make and fire hundreds of pots, all carefully documented, in order to build up a scientific collection that we can use to help analyze our prehistoric artifacts. We will also work with local schools and the local university so that these traditional skills can be passed on to the younger generation as well.

We will be exploring other new avenues. First, we know that there are many prehistoric sites in the area close to Ban Non Wat. We will continue to gather information about these sites from the current residents, to map the sites and to identify specific areas of interest for future excavations. Participating in this work is a great way to see rural Thailand and its people in a very real way—well beyond what the millions of tourists who visit the country see. Another project we plan to begin will be in cooperation with colleagues in the environmental sciences where we will begin to assess the health of a local “community forest.” This natural area has recently begun to be rehabilitated, and our project will look at both the ecological process of rehabilitation and the very human reasons that have caused this process to begin. These include a desire to maintain traditional local foods, for example types of mushroom and medicinal plants. As with the pottery project, we will be engaging with the community in the present but also developing new information to help us understand the past; it is likely that some of the same resources that are valued today were also important two or three thousand years ago.

Perhaps the key word that unifies our current approaches is “community.” We are engaging more and more with the local community today and at the same time working to better understand the nature of the local community in the past. I believe that the past and the present have a lot to learn from each other, and that we can have a part to play in this learning.

I think that you will enjoy being a part of our community and contributing to the research. One of the great advantages of Earthwatch is something far beyond the funding it provides—as essential as this might be. Rather, it is the people that are brought together in these projects. Much of the sense of community that has developed in this small part of Northeast Thailand relies on the cultural exchange between volunteers from around the world, the local people and our research staff. We look forward to your contribution to this community and to our research. Again, welcome!

Sincerely,
Dr. Nigel Chang
School of Arts and Social Sciences
James Cook University

The Research

Origins of Angkor

After over ten seasons of excavation at Ban Non Wat, more than 1,100 square meters of the site have been opened, translating into more than 3,000 cubic meters of soil that has been moved—all by hand. This is one of the largest and longest running archaeological projects in Southeast Asia. This project has uncovered evidence about significant changes in the ancient past. Volunteers have participated in uncovering the graves of people who lived up to 4,000 years ago at this and other sites as well as the evidence of their activities during life. As each archaeological layer has been exposed the teams have been able to see the first use of metals at the site (some time between 3,500 and 3,000 years ago) as well as changes in the sorts of food remains discarded in the many middens encountered.

From our current perspective, it can be hard to appreciate the significance of bronze technology. However, consider the fact that after pottery making, bronze working is the first truly industrial activity humans engaged in. It involves the almost magical transformation of rock into a new malleable material that, through casting, can produce an infinite variety of shapes of tools and decorative pieces. Some hundreds of years later—or a meter higher, as recorded in the layers of the site—iron technology appears along with the ability to work with glass, gold and silver, among other new materials. These innovations continue to be recorded in the graves and the surrounding deposits at the site. From about 800 A.D., we see the development of the civilization of Angkor. The town of Phimai, where you will be living while working on this project, was an important regional capital of this civilization.

While technologies and society became more sophisticated, climate change was also happening (it is important to note that this is not a recent phenomenon only—remember the Ice Ages). The existence of moats around sites such as Ban Non Wat seem to represent a time in the Iron Age when water that had always been so abundant became a more precious resource to be carefully husbanded. Our most recent excavations have been investigating some of these features in order to better understand the complex inter-relationships between people and environment in the past.

Over its long history, the Origins of Angkor project has been through several phases—much like the sites we have been digging up. It began with a concentration on ideas about how social complexity increased as a prelude to the civilization of Angkor. The emphasis then shifted to a closer understanding of human-environment interactions. Without losing sight of either of these important questions, we are now moving into a new phase of research that will emphasize the idea of community, both as it has developed over the last 4,000 years in and around Ban Non Wat and in terms of how our archaeological project can contribute to the current community within which we work.

The aims of the project

The main objective of the current project is to explore this idea of community. Fifteen villages make up the local administrative sub-district and they work together under a sub-district head. Is this a community? Within the sub-district borders there are approximately fifteen easily identified archaeological sites. Does this mean we can use some of our observations of the present inter-relationships to inform our reconstructions of society in the past? The sub-district also includes a number of different bio-geographical zones. These include an area that is too dry for rice agriculture and which has been traditionally used by a number of villages for medicinal plants and other wild resources. Does this shared use of the environment provide a model for community interactions in the past?

As well as these archaeological questions, we will work closely with the modern local community to give back what we have already learned about the long history of the area. This will involve working with school teachers in

and around the sub-district of Phonsongkhram (in which Ban Non Wat lies), local government officials, the provincial university and the broader local population. This should also encourage the transmission of local traditional knowledge between generations.

Our main objectives this season include:

1. Developing and completing a major experimental project making pottery from local clays with the help of local experts and international researchers;
2. Undertaking the first stage of a research program on the local community forest;
3. Completing our mapping of the sub-district that surrounds Ban Non Wat and identifying all potential archaeological sites;
4. If possible, carrying out ethno-archaeological excavations of areas where salt has been made and where traditional stilt houses were recently present. This will help us to better interpret our prehistoric archaeological features.

Past and Future Aims

We have already reviewed the past focus of the project: the rise of the civilization of Angkor and interactions between society and environment in the past, potentially as a model for informing how we might best act as climate change impacts on us today. As we look to the future these concerns remain, but with an ever-increasing concentration on the local area—the local community—around Ban Non Wat. We are asking, as societies became more complex and more connected – and as the climate changed – how was this reflected in local communities and local adaptations?

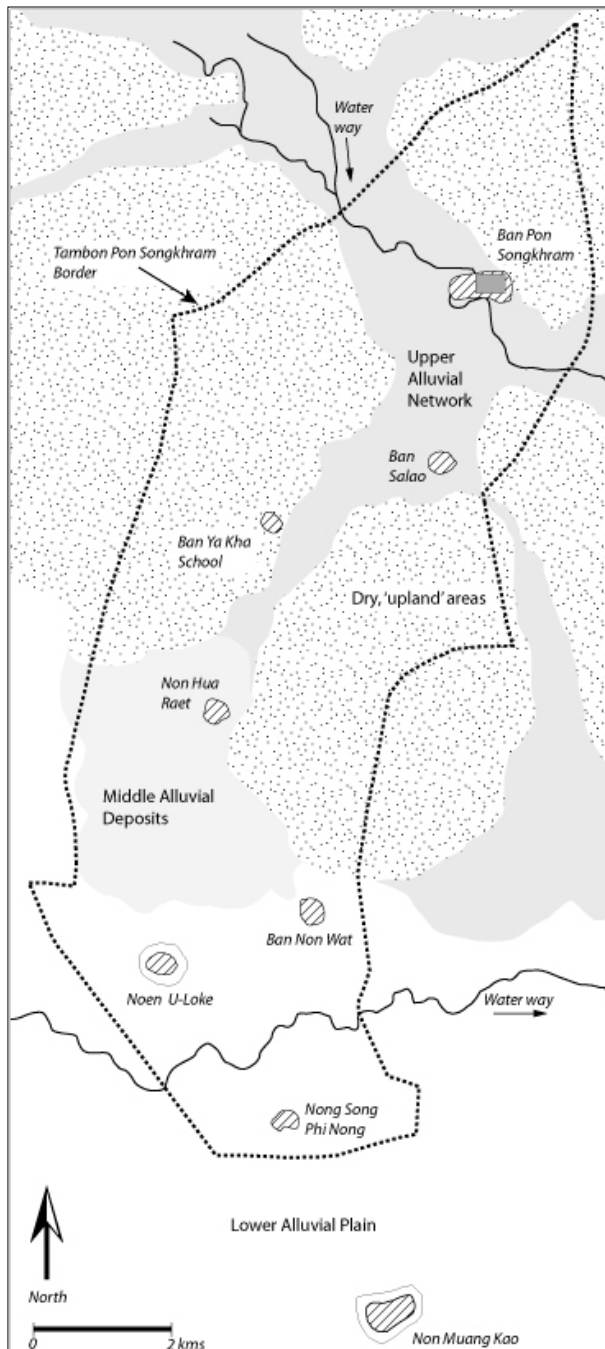
One of the catch phrases of the environmental movement today is “think global, act local.” This project aims to develop the most well understood local area in Southeast Asian prehistory, because if we are really to understand worldwide processes of social evolution and their inter-relationships with the wider environment we must understand the local first. The fortunate spin-off from this approach is that by continuing to work in one defined area we can make a significant and ongoing contribution to the local community. The benefits of this include simple economic help (we employ local people and buy stuff), opportunity (create connections between local people and Thai government) and in community building by emphasizing the long history of the area and supporting the (long) ongoing efforts to develop a local museum and learning center.

What Will You Be Doing?

For those of you who have worked with us before, this season will be somewhat of a different experience. We will have very little (if any) excavation. However, I think you will find the other jobs we will be asking you to help us with just as engaging. These will include:

1. Assisting with the collection and preparation of clay and other materials for making pots. We won't be asking you to simply dig muddy holes (though we will be happy if you enjoy that sort of thing)—we will need all the circumstances recorded carefully: location, informant, their analysis of the quality of the clay, soil and clay layers, etc. We will need video and still images, and for those to be deposited in a database.
2. Documenting and taking part in the actual pot making process, mixing the clay and other components, forming the pots and firing.
3. Working with our small community forest team to document knowledge about local plants and other resources, and to collect samples of each. This will be done in Thai and in English, and we will have translators to assist you with preparing English versions. Again, we will need video and still images deposited in a database.

4. Surveying and mapping archaeological sites across the sub-district (see map below). For those of you who have worked with us already, we have a brand new and much more user-friendly total station (electronic surveying device) to work with. This job will involve a lot of walking and standing out in the sun.
5. Assisting with small ethno-archaeological excavations. This means not digging into prehistoric layers but excavating sites of known recent activities, such as salt making, in order to see what sort of archaeological signature they leave. Can we match this with any of the features we have previously excavated in the prehistoric contexts?



The main study area around Ban Non Wat. Each named area is a known or potential site.

6. Finally, we may also ask you to help with preparing displays for the local museum and community learning center.

These jobs will all be carried out across the field season; however, the emphasis will shift somewhat from week to week depending on researcher availability and opportunity.

Why field research?

As an Earthwatch participant, you will spend a significant amount of time each day assisting with data collection. Some of this work will be repetitive, but it is fundamental to our scientific understanding of nature and its relationship with our ancestors. Societies and ecosystems are incredibly complex. The only way to begin to unravel this complexity is by designing good experiments, and carefully collecting as much data as possible. Without the work of thousands of dedicated scientists, we would know nothing about climate change, the effects of pollution, the thinning of the ozone layer, the extinction of species, or how to find cures for diseases or improve crops. Without science we would be blind to the world. This is your chance to be part of the scientific effort, to find solutions to pressing environmental problems, and to enjoy the beauty and diversity of nature as you work.

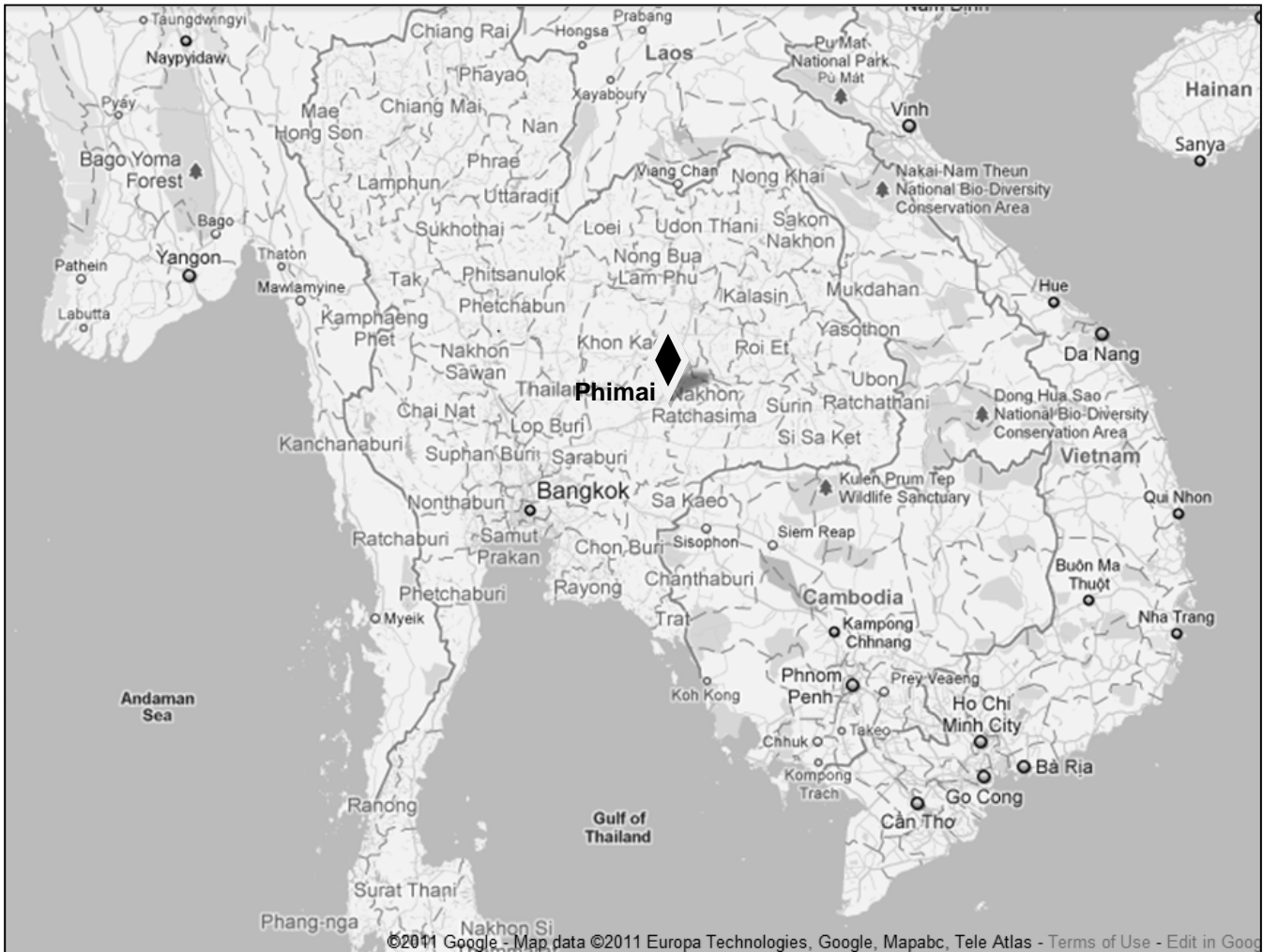
Project Location

The project is based on the northern edge of the Mun (pronounced “moon”) River drainage system that runs west to east across lower northeast Thailand. It is joined by the Chi River before crossing the border into Laos and feeding into the great Mekong River, which then flows through Cambodia and southern Vietnam on its way to the sea. Our base in Phimai is right on the Mun River which regularly floods the town, though not during the December-February dry season when we will be there. Phimai was once called Vimayapura when it was a major regional capital of the Angkorian Empire. The center of the modern town is still dominated by the impressive stone temples and walls of the

ancient city. As we travel each day out to the village of Ban Non Wat, we move across the floodplain to its northern edge. Ban Non Wat is located at the interface of low-lying floodplain land that is fantastic for rice growing and the very gently rising landscape to the north.

The area is dominated by rice fields that are interspersed with individual trees and copses which increase in density around the many small villages. At Ban Non Wat itself, trees are an important characteristic of the village—especially the large tamarind trees. In fact almost every plant in and around the village, despite appearances, has a use and is valued by the community. Over the last century the growth of the Thai population and the opening up of new farmland has severely affected the wildlife population. Deer, tigers, leopards and crocodiles are no longer present. However, smaller animals and birds are varied and relatively abundant if you are sharp-eyed. Snakes (including cobras) and scorpions are present, though the local people are knowledgeable about their dangers and able to quickly deal with them. Rice field rats, fish that estivate below the drying rice fields and a range of insects are all available during the dry season to supplement diets and incomes. Brahman cattle and water buffalo are raised, and they calve towards the end of the dry season. Domestic elephants (and their owners) occasionally visit Ban Non Wat, but are more frequently seen in Phimai town.

Mosquitoes can be a nuisance in the evenings; however, malaria and other mosquito-borne maladies are rare during the dry season. For information on the climate and hazards of the research area, see the *Project Conditions* section.



Cultural, Social and Political Environment

Thailand is a fantastic country to visit, as attested by the many millions of international tourists that come annually. Unfortunately, political upheavals over the last few years have affected the country's reputation somewhat. In our experience, these issues have had very little effect on our project. In general, the business of government tends to continue despite arguments over who is in charge. In and around Bangkok, usual rules for urban areas apply: be aware of your surroundings and your belongings, especially in well-known tourist areas. Take the advice of other travelers and/or hotel staff on places to avoid. We would suggest purchasing a good travel guide for the country. One of the highlights in Bangkok is the Grand Palace, and traveling on the Chao Phraya river taxis is a second. There is much more to see if you plan to spend time in the city.

While the official language of the country is Thai, English will be spoken on the project. Be aware, however, that up to 40 non-English speaking local people will also work on the project and that the level of English language skills in the general public is usually quite limited. This is more than made up for by the welcoming nature and helpfulness of most Thais you will meet. Much activity in Thailand happens around the various markets. At Phimai, you can visit the daily morning market near the hotel and the evening market in the town center, as well as the nearby Monday night traveling market. Traveling around the region you will see richly decorated Buddhist temples and monks on their alms rounds (if you get up early enough). During January and February, many of the temples have festivals that you can join.

Research Achievements

Over the last decade, the *Origins of Angkor* project has had some very interesting outcomes. From the original excavations at Ban Non Wat, former Earthwatch scientist Charles Higham and his team have shown both that there may well have been significant hierarchy in society during the Bronze Age and, through a groundbreaking radiocarbon dating program, that we must rethink the order and timing of events such as the beginning of the Bronze Age in Southeast Asia. More recently, the current team has shown that water management systems in the Iron Age seem to have been even more sophisticated than previously thought, and we have also identified many new sites that will need to be investigated if we are to fully understand the level of complexity in the region.

We are also very proud of our ongoing collaboration with the modern population of Ban Non Wat and the wider community. This population of about 160 people relies on rainfall for their rice harvest in the wet season. However, due to an unpredictable rainfall pattern, the rice harvest sometimes fails, and people must leave their families during the dry season for employment. Through Earthwatch funding, twenty-five to forty local people are employed with the project during the field season, with the aim that most households are represented on the payroll. The site has now attracted such attention in Thailand that access roads are being upgraded through local government initiatives, and work began on a permanent community-building center at the site in September of 2011. An ongoing link with the local Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University has been crucial in pushing this project forward. Although it is not an uncontroversial strategy, it may be that cultural heritage tourism will contribute to sustainable local prosperity into the future. Clearly, such a development requires deep consideration as it would change the village in many ways and, just as clearly, it is a decision to be made locally.

The Thai community as a whole has an interest in the research as well, as the importance of Thai cultural heritage becomes better known. The finds at Ban Non Wat have been quite stunning and have been featured widely on Thai television and other media. The project has also conducted many school visits, a two-day seminar in 2006 and similar events in 2009 and 2010 (to which the resident Earthwatch volunteer teams made fantastic contributions), and lectures to visitors from local institutions. Relationships with local government and educational institutions are well established.

PROJECT STAFF

Earthwatch scientists

Dr. Nigel Chang holds a Ph.D. from the University of Otago in New Zealand and is a lecturer in archaeology at James Cook University in Australia. He has been working in Thailand since 1991 and is experienced in dealing with project logistics and accommodations, and giving advice and support to volunteers. Nigel has also participated in several projects in Cambodia and more recently in Laos. His research interest involves the study of prehistoric jewelry. He will be in the field with all teams and can communicate effectively in Thai.

Dr. Kate Domett holds a Ph.D. from the University of Otago and is a senior lecturer in anatomy at James Cook University. She has been involved with research in Thailand since 1995 and also has research interests in Cambodia, Burma, Vietnam and Australia. Kate's specialty is in the analysis of health and disease in prehistoric communities. Kate can't be in the field this season, but her Ph.D. student will be continuing the research on the human skeletal remains.

Dr. Bill Boyd will not be in the field this season due to other pressing research commitments. His input, however, remains essential to the continued development of the project. He holds a Ph.D. from Glasgow University and a D.Sc. from St. Andrews University, both in Scotland. He is a professor of geography at Southern Cross University in Australia and a life fellow at Clare College, Cambridge University, in England. Dr. Boyd's research involves identifying the past environments into which prehistoric people came and within which they lived, and analyzing prehistoric people's relationships with the environment.

Earthwatch field staff

Dr. Amphan Kijngam is a senior archaeologist with the Fine Arts Department of the Thai government. He is a co-director on this project, with a research interest in zooarchaeology (the analysis of animal remains). Dr. Kijngam will occasionally visit the site during the project.

Dr. Warrachai Wiriyaromp holds a Ph.D. from Otago University and is a senior member of staff at Kasetsart University in Bangkok. He is particularly interested in Neolithic pottery at Ban Non Wat, and more widely across Thailand, and has been involved in fieldwork in Thailand for the past 25 years. Dr. Wiriyaromp is a co-director on the project and will join all teams for at least a few days each week as his teaching and administrative commitments at Kasetsart University allow.

Dr. James Moloney is a lecturer in the School of Earth and Environmental sciences at James Cook University. James manages our GIS (Geographic Information System) program at Ban Non Wat and will also play a key role, along with our colleagues from the Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, in developing and running the community forest project.

Ms. Puangthip "Tip" Kerdsap is a lecturer in anthropology at Kasetsart University who is currently undertaking PhD research at James Cook University in Australia. We hope that Tip will be able to join the fieldwork this season; however, her university research commitments may make this difficult.

Ms. Ally Halliwell is a Ph.D. candidate at Macquarie University in Australia, where she also teaches. Ally is working on the analysis of prehistoric ceramics from Ban Non Wat, and she will have a major role in managing the experimental pottery making this year.

Ms. Pimpicha “Mon” Bannanurak is an experienced fieldworker based in Phimai, who will have special responsibility for site logistics and will work as an excavation site supervisor.

Ms. Belinda Duke has recently completed a short research dissertation at James Cook University and is beginning a master’s dissertation project in the field of geoarchaeology, investigating the structure of the site and how it evolved over time. Belinda will be key contact point for Earthwatch volunteers on the project, in particular by helping with everyday queries at the hotel. This will be Belinda’s fourth field season at Ban Non Wat.

Ms. Caitlin Evans is a Ph.D. candidate at James Cook University who is working on a GIS-based project aimed at intensively mapping our research area, including all the archaeological and appropriate environmental evidence. This will be Caitlin’s third year working with the project at Ban Non Wat.

Note that other researchers and students, both from Thailand and abroad, are expected to join the project periodically throughout the season. It is also important to note that our staff includes many local people who are indispensable to this project. These include, in particular, the people of Ban Non Wat and our driving staff. In fact, the daily work force will sometimes be in excess of fifty and we may be seating thirty for dinner some evenings.

Staffing Schedule (Subject to Change)

Staff Member Present	Team 1a	Team 1b	Team 2a	Team 2b	Team 3a	Team 3b
Nigel Chang	X	X	X	X	X	X
Warrachai Wiriyaomp	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pimpicha Bannanurak	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belinda Duke	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ally Halliwell	X	X	X	X		
James Moloney			X	X	X	X
Caitlin Evans			X	X	X	X

Daily Life in the Field

VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Training

On the first night, a short orientation presentation will be given. The following morning, upon the team's arrival at the research base (Day 2), the Earthwatch scientist will spend about two hours briefing volunteers on the research area, project goals and what work will be carried out that week.

Volunteers are also briefed on cultural considerations during the introductory talk, and given instructions on safety, which include:

- Take great care when participating in all research tasks. You will be in rural community without flat footpaths or any apparent road rules.
- Take care if going into overgrown areas or recovering materials from storage areas. Snakes, scorpions and other hazards can be present. If in doubt ask for help to check the area first.
- When walking around villages watch out for dogs and, if threatened, keep still until they are controlled by their owners.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Stay in the shade when possible.
- Make sure to rest if jet-lagged and/or tired.
- If you feel at all stressed or unwell, please inform a staff member immediately.

On most evenings, lectures or videos will be presented after dinner. The Earthwatch scientist usually gives two of these lectures throughout each expedition, with the first concentrating on some of the procedures and conventions on the project in order to help volunteers with their assigned tasks followed by a "week in review" lecture on the evening before each team leaves. Other discussion topics may include:

- Archaeological fieldwork: why and how this work is being done
- The Neolithic Period, Bronze and/or Iron Ages
- The rise of civilization and "What is Angkor?"
- Prehistoric jewelry
- Research students or other visiting specialists speaking on their areas of study

Assignments

This will be a different fieldwork season from those of recent years, essentially because it will not be centered on continuing excavation. However, we are confident that the tasks will remain varied and interesting, and will provide a job for everyone regardless of interest and skill; the Earthwatch scientist gives much thought to the tasks assigned to each volunteer. The variety of tasks will generally be the same for each team, although the emphasis may change as the field season progresses. There will also occasionally be periods of downtime as vital tasks need to be completed by specialists before continuing. This is a great time to explore the village or visit the local Wat (Buddhist temple).

It is vital that volunteers appreciate the importance and relevance of what they are doing. When cleaning and restoring a complete pottery vessel, the value to the project is obvious; however, it can be hard to remember when digging up potential potting clay from a dry streambed. The Earthwatch scientist will circulate among the various tasks, working alongside volunteers for spells of time and explaining the purpose and significance of what they are doing. The various supervisors will do the same as appropriate.

Tasks may include:

- Collecting and documenting materials for making pots. Some aspects of this will be strenuous (collecting clay and recording the locations and circumstances in the sun)
- Forming, decorating and firing pots (and documenting the process) alongside local experts. This will not be strenuous, though care will need to be taken around the fires
- Surveying and mapping the wider landscape and archaeological sites. This will involve a lot of walking and long hours outside in the sun. Hats, sunscreen and plenty of water will be required!
- Working with the environmental science team to collect baseline data on biodiversity in, and the resources derived from, the community forest adjacent to Ban Non Wat.
- Data entry. It is essential that we get data entered into a database as soon as possible. (For this job you get to sit in the shade with a fan.)
- Curating, cleaning and processing finds, including beads, stone axes, shell ornaments, pottery vessels, spindle whorls, bronze casting moulds, crucibles and animal bones and shells. We still have a lot of this work to do with artifacts recovered in previous years. (Again, this job involves sitting in the shade, a fan, and easily available cold drinks.)
- We MAY complete some experimental excavations this season. These will be shallow (less than one meter deep) and will investigate areas of recent known activities, such as salt making. The idea is to compare these with what we have found in the archaeological sites to reconstruct prehistoric activities. This will require a lot of sitting and kneeling, but otherwise should not be overly strenuous.

TEAM ITINERARY AND DAILY SCHEDULE

Please be aware that weather and research needs can lead to changes in the daily schedule. Should this situation arise, your cooperation and understanding are appreciated.

Day 1

Dinner will then be served at the hotel, and a welcome address will be given.

Note: With the exception of the travel day on Monday, volunteers on one-week teams will work every day. Those on two-week teams will have an additional recreational day on Day 8 (the second Monday).

Day 2

Time	Activity
7:00 a.m.	Breakfast (served starting at 7:00 a.m.)
7:45 a.m.	The team will leave sharply at 7:45 a.m. to travel by songtao (a large pick-up truck outfitted with bench seats along the sides and a roof in the back) to the base at Ban Non Wat. The journey will take approximately forty minutes, partly on a main highway, but predominantly through the countryside. Once the day's work is underway, the Earthwatch scientist will spend about two hours introducing volunteers to the site and project. The remainder of the day will be spent working on the day's research tasks. Some tasks will be based at Ban Non Wat, while others will involve travel within the sub-district.
10:00 a.m.	Morning tea break
12:00 noon	Lunch (those working away from Ban Non Wat will usually eat on location)
2:15 p.m.	Afternoon tea break
About 4:00 p.m.	The team will leave for Phimai and arrive at approximately 5:00 p.m. You will then be able to shop, email, swim, shower, relax, etc. Some participants may work longer or remain later to attend local events in the research area (under supervision).
7:00pm	Dinner
	Typically a video, lecture or Q&A session led by a staff member will be given after dinner

Days 3 – 6

As described for Day 2, minus the morning onsite presentation. The team will leave the hotel for the project base at 7:45 a.m. On the evening of Day 5 or 6 (to be determined on site), we will have dinner at a restaurant in Phimai (assemble for transport at 6:45 p.m.).

Day 7

Volunteers on one-week teams will be taken back to Bangkok.* Those on two-week teams will complete the day's work as above. However, dinner will not necessarily be a group affair. Volunteers may choose to eat at the Phimai Inn on the project account or to explore Phimai (at their own expense). This is a great opportunity to visit the evening market.

Note: Team 1a will remain in the area on Day 7 for a recreational day (see Day 8 below) before returning to Bangkok on Day 8. The team will leave the site early in the morning on Day 8 for the return trip.

Continued Itinerary: Two-Week Teams Only

Day 8

This will be a recreational day, with the option to visit places of interest in the region, such as the spectacular Angkorian temple site of Phnom Rung, about a three-hour drive away. Other group or individual outings may be arranged as requested. These will be at the volunteer's own expense. Volunteers should allow for something in the order of US\$ 120.00 for a vehicle and driver for a day's outing. This can be split between those volunteers touring together (e.g. up to nine persons for an air-conditioned van).

Days 9 – 13

The team will continue with the activities listed for Days 2 to 6 above.

Day 14

Volunteers will be taken back to Bangkok.*

***Note:** On the last day of your expedition, you will either be transported back to the Maruay Garden Hotel or to Suvarnabhumi International Airport (both destinations can be accommodated if numbers allow). Project staff may be able to help arrange transport to other destinations, though additional costs are at the volunteer's expense.

Team Development

Project staff has invariably found that team building occurs quickly if volunteers are comfortable, well fed and find the work interesting. During your expedition, almost all meals will be shared, there will be lectures on most evenings, and occasionally there may be festivals in the Phimai historic park. On some days, work will finish early or begin late and you will have a chance to visit the Phimai museum, the historical park in the centre of Phimai or the nearby prehistoric site of Ban Prasad which has been preserved as an open site museum. On Days 5 or 6 of each team, we will eat at a novel restaurant; many pleasant places are located along the banks of the Mun River.

Earthwatch Recreational Time Policy

Earthwatch will generally accompany participants from the rendezvous to the end of the expedition with the exception of recreation time.

- For days when no research activities are scheduled, referred to as recreational days, Earthwatch scientists will offer either a planned team activity or a range of recreational activities that have been vetted and comply with Earthwatch standards. Participants will also have the option of remaining at camp or project accommodations to rest.
- Participants who are determined to pursue options other than those recommended by the project staff will be required to sign a release before doing so. If there is a period of time during a regular research day when no research activities are scheduled, adult participants may have the opportunity to leave the project site on their own; they will be asked to sign out of the project giving their intended destination. Not appearing for the next scheduled activity will trigger the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) regarding missing people. Earthwatch will assess the general risks of adult participants leaving the project site on their own at night after work hours, but cannot guarantee participant safety or an awareness of all issues.

- In some cases, due to local conditions, it may be advisable to restrict adult participants to the project camp or accommodation after dark. This will be clearly communicated in the on-site safety briefing. However, if the local conditions are such that adult participants can go out at night under their own recognizance, there will be a sign-out process through which participants should state their proposed destination and estimated return time. Participants will be given twenty-four-hour contact information for project staff should assistance be needed. The sign-out is informational only and will not be used to enforce a curfew on adult participants. Adult participants should understand that unless contacted for help, project staff will not start a search for a missing participant unless he or she fails to appear the following morning or for the next scheduled research activity.

Additional Policies Relevant to the *Origins of Angkor Expedition*

Participants will not be permitted to drive any vehicle or ride a motorcycle at any time during the expedition.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Volunteers will stay in the Phimai Inn (see the *Communications* section for contact information), a forty-minute drive to the research site and only 1.3 kilometers (an approximately twenty-five or thirty-minute walk) from the center of Phimai, with easy access via minibus or samlor (three-wheeled bike) that can be called from the front desk.

It is a comfortable hotel by local standards (remembering that all things are relative and that it is not in Bangkok). There will be two volunteers per room, each with their own comfortable single bed. Unless otherwise specified by the volunteers, shared rooms will be single gender.

The inn offers hot showers, Western-style flush toilets and air-conditioning in each room. There may be very occasional interruptions in electricity and water supply—water can become scarce in late January as the dry season continues.

All rooms have a television set with cable channel access (though little is offered in English) and a telephone. Fax and Internet are both available at the Inn at reasonable rates. You should be able to connect wirelessly to the Inn Internet service in the hotel foyer also at a reasonable rate – though the service does slow down when a lot of people are connected at the same time. Volunteers can bring their own electronic equipment; it is advised that you have a surge protector or similar device for delicate equipment.

Laundry is done daily by Inn staff and costs an additional US\$0.60-1.00 per item at your own expense.

The new Phimai market is 300 meters down the road. The Phimai Inn swimming pool is free for residents and guests.

Volunteers who wish to upgrade their room have several options listed in the table below. Note that all amounts listed are estimates in U.S. dollars for the cost per person per night and are subject to change. Project staff pay the hotel bill in bulk each week so any upgrade costs will need to be paid directly to the designated project staff member, preferably in Thai baht. **Be aware that the project staff cannot be paid with credit cards. The Phimai Inn does accept credit cards, however, the facility is not always available and there is an additional fee applied.** Please inform Earthwatch in advance if you wish to upgrade your room option; a good opportunity for you to do this is when completing your volunteer forms. Upgrades will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be confirmed upon arrival at the hotel. Upgraded and/or single room requests are subject to availability; however, the Phimai Inn indicates that there should be sufficient availability. Approximate upgrade costs are as follows:

Room Type	Estimated Extra Cost Per Person Per Night (as of Oct. 2011)	
	<i>Double</i>	<i>Single</i>
Standard room (not shared)	N/A	US\$5.00
VIP room (newer and larger) with carpet and refrigerator	US\$3.50	US\$12.00
Family (similar to a suite)	US\$6.50	US\$18.50

Note that the Phimai Inn caters predominantly to Thai nationals, and the level of English language ability amongst the staff varies. In some cases you may have difficulty making yourself understood. However, a project staff member will usually be able to help with any questions you might have. **It is also important to stress that while we are staying at a commercial establishment, the project has been based at the Phimai Inn for many years and the owners and staff are our friends. We would appreciate it if this is kept in mind when interacting with people at the inn.**



Room at the Phimai Inn. © Earthwatch

FOOD

Volunteers can expect wonderful Thai meals during the expedition. Project staff and volunteers will eat the majority of meals together. Breakfast and dinner will usually be taken at the Phimai Inn restaurant and each day the inn will provide lunch to take out into the field. Some fresh dishes will be prepared onsite. Fresh fruit will be provided with every main meal. It will not be necessary to assist in meal preparation, shopping or clean-up. Volunteers can purchase additional food items in Phimai, such as butter, jam, yogurt and other Western favorites if desired. **Please be warned that it will be next to impossible to eliminate monosodium glutamate (MSG) from your diet on this expedition.**

Following are examples of the foods you might expect in the field. Please bear in mind that variety depends on availability. This list is intended to provide a general idea of food types, but it is very important that volunteers be flexible. Standard Western meals that might be on the menu at a hotel in Bangkok will not be available in Phimai.

Breakfast:	Rice-based dishes (often fried rice) along with fruit, toast and yogurt will be available on a self-service basis.
Lunch:	Rice, salad and one or two Thai dishes (chicken, pork and vegetables).
Dinner:	Rice and a wide array of Thai dishes, mainly featuring seafood and meat. Some can be quite spicy, although they will be toned down from the original local versions.
Snacks:	Cookies, cold soda and local confections are often available at your own expense from village entrepreneurs at the research site; an ice cream salesman often arrives around afternoon tea time.
Beverages:	Water is provided at the site and in the Phimai Inn, along with tea and instant coffee. Cold soda and other commercial beverages (and more ice cream) can be purchased at the inn. It is recommended that coffee addicts bring their own plunger and supply of their favorite beans.

Note: The research site is within a small rural village with all the realities of life that this entails. Volunteers should expect to be much closer to where their food comes from, and to see how it is processed and stored—more so than you might normally be used to.

Special Dietary Requirements

Please alert Earthwatch to any special dietary requirements (e.g. diabetes, lactose intolerance, nut or other serious food allergies) as soon as possible, and note them in the space provided on your volunteer forms. Accommodating special diets is not guaranteed and can be very difficult due to availability of food and the experience of local cooks.

Special note to vegans and strict vegetarians: Please be aware that it is often difficult to accommodate strict vegetarians and vegans. It may be possible to get meatless meals but vegans may have a problem avoiding animal products altogether. If this is an issue, then participation on this Earthwatch expedition should be seriously reconsidered.

Travel Planning

Note: Earthwatch Institute's international emergency medical and evacuation assistance provider, International SOS, has a wealth of useful information available at their website, including visa, passport, currency, medical, etc. information for the country in which this project takes place. See internationalsos.com and enter Earthwatch's member identification number: **14ACPA000075**. Under "Select Resource" choose "English Country Guide," and then select this project's country from the list.

You are encouraged to register your travel itinerary with your embassy. For information on embassies around the world, see embassyworld.com.

- Citizens of Australia may register online at: orao.dfat.gov.au.
- British citizens may register online at: fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/staying-safe.
- Citizens of the United States may register online at: travelregistration.state.gov.
- Citizens of other countries are encouraged to check with their appropriate embassy or consulate regarding registration.

RENDEZVOUS

The rendezvous information for this project has been removed from this web version of the Expedition Briefing. Please do not make any travel arrangements to join an expedition on this project without receiving full and up-to-date rendezvous information from Earthwatch. Full rendezvous details, including places and times are available from Earthwatch upon request prior to registration for an expedition. Please use the "Contact Us" button on the top right hand corner of our website to get in touch with us and we will be very happy to help you. This information is provided in the printed version of this Expedition Briefing.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Visa Information

Citizens of the U.S., Australia, Canada, Japan and most of the EU, **do not** need a tourist visa for entry if staying less than 30 days and arriving by air, though all participants are encouraged to confirm visa details themselves. Citizens of other countries should check with their travel agent or a visa agency for specific visa and entry requirements. Travelers are advised to check visa regulations well in advance of traveling. **Note: If you are traveling from outside the U.S. to Canada, Mexico, Latin America, South America, the Bahamas or the Caribbean and have a stopover in the U.S., you are required to register through the ESTA program.**

Passport Information

Most volunteers traveling from outside the host country will require a passport valid for at least six months beyond the dates of travel.

For Volunteers Requiring Visas ONLY: Essential Information

Type of Visa	Volunteers requiring a visa must get a TOURIST VISA .
Where to Get a Visa	Contact the nearest Thai embassy or consulate to find out how to apply for your visa. Please note that this process can take weeks or more. We strongly recommend using a visa agency , which can both expedite and simplify the process. See below for a list of visa agencies.
Required Information	You will need to send your passport (valid for at least six months beyond your stay), a Visa Application and Immigration Form , 2-4 passport-size photos , and payment to the embassy or visa agency (if applicable). Please be sure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your stay.
Contact Information	You may be required to list the following contact information on your Visa Application and Immigration Form: Phimai Inn 33/1 By Pass Rd Amphoe Phimai Nakhon Ratchasima 30110 THAILAND +66 (0) 44 47 1175
Cost of a Visa	Generally between US\$40-100, but varies from country to country and can potentially cost up to US\$180 . A visa agency will charge an additional fee.

Note: The purpose of your visit is for vacation, holiday or travel. Foreign immigration officials do not always understand the concept of a “working vacation” or “volunteering.” Words such as “working,” “volunteering,” “research,” or “scientific expedition” can raise questions concerning the country’s foreign labor laws and/or prompt questions about official scientific research permits and credentials, etc., to which volunteers on their own will not be equipped to respond. All required research permits for the project are in place and have been approved by the proper authorities.

Visa Agencies

In the United States	In Europe	In Australia
Travisa* 290 5th Avenue, 4th Floor New York, NY 10001 Tel: (212) 613-2223 Fax: (212) 613-2287 Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST Web: travisa.com (*See the website for additional offices)	CIBT, Inc.-U.K. 25 Wilton Road Lower Ground Floor Victoria SW1V 1LW Tel: 0844-736-0211 Fax: +44 (0) 207-828-5411 Calling from Europe outside U.K.: +44 (0) 207-802-1000 Email: info@uk.cibt.com Web: uk.cibt.com (has alternate address for urgent requests)	Ask your travel agency if it can send your visa application on your behalf.

Volunteers Under 18 Years of Age

Entry to Foreign Countries

It may be possible for 16- and 17-year-olds to participate on standard Earthwatch teams *if* accompanied by a parent or guardian. However, in an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points to protect minors. Thus, if a minor will be traveling with only one guardian, or if for any reason they will be traveling alone (such as for a Teen Team), it may be necessary to have a notarized letter from all legal guardians stipulating that they may travel unaccompanied or in the presence of a single guardian. This letter must give an explanation for why only one parent or someone other than a parent is signing the letter. For example, if one parent is deceased, only one parent has legal guardianship, or someone other than the parents are legal guardians, the letter should state that.

Airline Documentation Requirements

Airlines may also have documentation requirements for unaccompanied minors. Parents of minors are responsible for checking with each airline that their child will be flying to ensure that sufficient documentation is provided. This could include a copy of a birth certificate or a notarized letter stating that the minor has his or her parent's permission to travel alone or with only one parent.

Note: Requirements by specific countries and airlines vary and change frequently. You **MUST** keep informed of the requirements on your own to avoid problems at immigration. If a letter is not available, the volunteer under 18 can be refused entry into the country or on a flight. There is nothing Earthwatch Institute can do to help in this circumstance.

Additional Passport and Visa Resources

- For Japanese citizens: rainbowt.jp/travel/visa_top.html
- For Australian citizens: passports.gov.au and dfat.gov.au/visas/index.html
- For U.S. citizens: passportvisasexpress.com
- Travel Document Systems: traveldocs.com/index.htm

INSURANCE

MedEvac assistance, advice and insurance are included in the contribution you pay to Earthwatch. It covers your travel medical risks, including medical expenses and emergency medical evacuation, while you are traveling, as well as trip cancellation and baggage and personal money insurance. It doesn't provide personal liability insurance. This coverage is valid in the country of your Earthwatch expedition and during travel to and from your expedition (**Note:** For U.S. volunteers, the coverage is valid only when the expedition is over 100 miles from your place of residence). Please see earthwatch.org/europe/downloads/Insurance/post15Jan_FAQs.pdf for information about when coverage starts and ends, and answers to other frequently asked questions.

If you have additional vacation time before and/or after your Earthwatch expedition that forms part of your overall time away from your place of residence, this additional vacation time is not covered under this policy. If you are in any doubt as to whether your travel plans before and/or after your Earthwatch expedition constitute additional vacation time please contact Sutton Winson.

This insurance policy is secondary to your existing health insurance policy (e.g. the NHS in the U.K.).

If you signed up through Earthwatch U.K./Europe, or Earthwatch Japan:

Details of this insurance policy are included in your expedition briefing pack and can be found at earthwatch.org/europe/insuranceinfo. Please refer all queries regarding this policy to Sutton Winson in the U.K. at +44 (0) 1444 251 164 or on earthwatch@swib.co.uk.

Information about additional insurance available to U.K. residents can be found at earthwatch.org/europe/insuranceinfo. Should you have any questions about whether you require additional coverage for your travel plans, please contact Sutton Winson. Earthwatch is not authorized by the FSA to give advice on any additional travel insurance you might require.

If you signed up through Earthwatch U.S.:

Details of the U.S. insurance policy can be found at earthwatch.org/insurance. Please refer any queries regarding this policy to Sutton Winson in the U.K. From the U.S., dial 011 44 1444 251 164, or email earthwatch@swib.co.uk. Please note the time difference between the U.S. and the U.K. and call during U.K. business hours, which are from 08:45 to 17:00 GMT (from November to April) and GMT +1 (from April to November).

Information about additional insurance can be found at earthwatch.org/volunteerresources. Should you have any questions about whether you require additional coverage for your travel plans, please contact Sutton Winson. Earthwatch is not authorized by the FSA to give advice on any additional travel insurance you might require.

Emergency Medical and Evacuation Assistance (for all volunteers)

Emergency medical and evacuation assistance is available for all Earthwatch participants from International SOS (ISOS), a twenty-four-hour, independently operated international emergency medical and evacuation service. Please see the contact information and card on the *General Information* page. Participants should carry the card with them on the expedition.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

Luggage

- *General considerations:* Do not bring more luggage than you can carry and handle on your own. On arrival at the Phimai Inn, there is (usually) staff available to help with baggage, but no elevators/lifts. If traveling by air and checking your luggage, you are advised to pack an extra set of field clothing and personal essentials in your carry-on bag in case your luggage is lost and/or takes several days to catch up with you. Many airlines have strict baggage policies. Please check with your airline(s) on baggage weight limits, liquid restrictions, fees for checked baggage, etc.
- *Checking luggage:* Please note that if you will be taking an international flight that has one or more connections within the country of your destination, it will be necessary to collect any checked bags at the airport where you first arrive in the destination country. After proceeding through customs, you will have to recheck your luggage before flying on to your final destination.

Money Matters

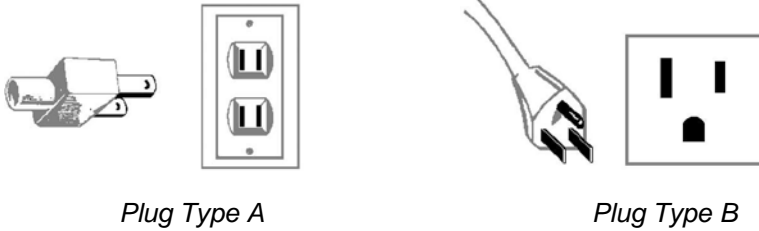
- *Local currency:* Thai baht (THB). Notes are in denominations of 1000, 500, 100, 50, 20 and (rarely) 10 THB. Coins are in denominations of 10, 5 and 1 THB, and 50 and 25 satang. 1 THB = 100 satang. See the International SOS website (above) and www.xe.com/ucc for currency information and exchange rates. 1000 THB notes can be hard to break at times so try not to have too many of these if you are expecting to make small purchases; you are encouraged to have smaller notes on hand. The exchange rate is usually about 30 Thai baht to one U.S. dollar.
- *Personal funds:* Volunteers should have cash in Thai baht. Approximately 300 baht (USD\$10) per day will cover snacks and other small expenses (a 600 ml bottle of beer costs about 70 baht, if this helps in your calculations). If you plan to upgrade your room you will need cash to cover that cost (see above) as well as about 1000 baht if you go on a field trip on the day off. ATMs can be accessed easily in Phimai, with the closest just 300 meters from the hotel. Volunteers can change money at the Bangkok airport upon arrival. There are also cash machines/ATMs and banks in Phimai center (about a thirty-minute walk from the hotel), which will change major foreign currencies into Thai baht. You should have enough to cover recreational day activities, email charges, incidental purchases, laundry costs (about US\$1 per item) and your upgrade to a single or luxury room if desired. One or two days before departure, volunteers are given a note of how much they owe for their room (if they opt for upgraded accommodation) and for any other extra costs. Extra costs usually come to about US\$70-90 for those in single rooms; **please have Thai baht on hand for these expenses.**
- *Airport fees and/or departure taxes:* Your departure taxes should be included in your air ticket. Please confirm this with your travel agent.

Your Destination

- *Language:* Thai. The project will be conducted in English
- *Cultural considerations:* It is important to remember that you are a guest in someone else's country and to strictly adhere to the following cultural guidelines while participating on this project:
 - Shoes must be removed when entering a temple.
 - Women should never touch a Buddhist monk.
 - Please avoid wearing low-cut tops and trousers/tops that reveal a bare midriff (while you will see similar dress in Bangkok, it is not appropriate in more rural communities); it is best for everyone to wear sleeved shirts or t-shirts on site. Local clothing is very cheap and readily available if anything has been overlooked. In Bangkok, men wearing shorts and women with bare shoulders, short dresses or shorts will not be admitted to the Grand Palace or temples; closed-toe shoes are also required. Your usual Western-style bathing suits are fine at the Inn's swimming pool (although particularly revealing outfits will attract attention). Thai women in more modest environments will swim in shorts and a T-shirt.
 - It is totally unacceptable to make any sort of critical or joking remark about the royal family.
 - Political discussion between volunteers and villagers is strongly discouraged, unless a volunteer is fluent in Thai.
 - Displays of bad temper or anger are extremely unacceptable in Thai society.
 - Attempting to purchase antiquities such as beads or ceramic vessels is against Thai law and is strictly forbidden.

Each year a number of events happen while we are there. A favorite is Children's Day (the second Saturday in January) when we usually get together to make up gift bags with notebooks, coloring books, coloring pencils, pens, erasers and similar items for the village kids. We usually suggest that if people wish to make a donation, then the local school is the appropriate place.

- *Electricity:* 220 volts, 50 hertz plugs with two flat prongs (Type A is most common) and two flat prongs with a round pin (Type B); some 230 volts, 50 Hz, European-style two-round-prong plugs are available as well. For additional information, see kropla.com/electric2.htm.



- *Time zone:* GMT/UTC +7. For time worldwide with GMT/UTC, see worldtimeserver.com.
- *Telephone Dialing codes:* When calling Thailand from another country, dial the country's international dialing code, followed by 66 and the number. When calling within Thailand, omit the 66 and dial the number directly. When calling another country from Thailand, dial 001, followed by the other country's country code and the number. **PLEASE NOTE:** you should check with your cell phone provider to obtain any carrier-specific dialing codes you may need; many providers have dialing procedures that may differ in whole or in part from these directions. For additional information, [see kropla.com/dialcode.htm](http://kropla.com/dialcode.htm).
- *Tippling:* It is good manners to leave a tip at a restaurant; however, it is not a requirement in most situations. Tips should be treated as a gift. Larger international hotels in Bangkok may work closer to the North American system, i.e. 15 – 20% for excellent service at meals. Also, it is bad manners to split the bill when paying for a meal. One person should pay as the 'host', though the group can easily split the cost before or after payment.
- *Acquiring antiquities:* **Attempting to acquire antiquities in Thailand is illegal.** Any attempt to do so, particularly at the site, would bring the project into disrepute and might lead to the cancellation of the research permit. Violators would be dismissed from the project immediately at their own expense, and risk jail and/or fines from the Thai authorities.

Country Information

- U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office: fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/
- Country information from around the world: countryreports.org
- National Geographic Map Machine: plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine
- U.S. State Department: state.gov
- Online unit conversions: onlineconversion.com
- Worldwide weather: wunderground.com or tutiempo.net/en
- ATM locator: visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/ or mastercard.com/atmlocator/index.jsp

RECOMMENDED READING

Below are additional recommended materials for those interested in further preparing for the expedition. Some may be purchased online through popular vendors. See the *Helpful Resources* section for links to suggested vendor websites.

Scientific Media

Books

- Coe, M. 2003. *Angkor and the Khmer Civilization*. Thames and Hudson.
- Higham, C.F.W. and R. Thosarat. 1998. *Prehistoric Thailand. From First Settlement to Sukhothai*. River Books and Thames and Hudson.
- Higham, C.F.W. 2001. *The Civilization of Angkor*. Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London.
- Higham, C.F.W. 2002. *Early Cultures of Southeast Asia*. River Books and Thames and Hudson.
- Jacques, C. and M. Freeman. 2008. *Ancient Angkor*. River Books, Bangkok.
- Ortner, J. 2002. *Angkor, Celestial Temples of the Khmer*. Abbeville Press.
- Stark, M. (ed.) 2006. *Archaeology of Asia*. Blackwell Publishing.

Journals

The following journals tend to publish relatively accessible articles about current work in the region:

- *Asian Perspectives*: uhpress.hawaii.edu
- *Bulletin of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association*: ejournal.anu.edu.au/index.php/bippa/

Articles

- Chang, N. 2009 The Archaeology of Ban Non Wat, Northeast Thailand: a view of the collaborative process. *The SAA Archaeological Record*. Vol. 9(3): 41-43: This whole issue is of interest, as its theme is the archaeology of Southeast Asia.
- Higham, C.F.W. and Higham, T. 2009. A New Chronological Framework for Prehistoric Southeast Asia, Based on a Bayesian Model from Ban Non Wat. *Antiquity*. Vol. 83(319): 25-144.

Popular Media

Films

- *City of the God Kings*, Channel 4 and Discovery Channel
- *Guardians of Angkor*, National Geographic Channel
- *Unlocking the Past*, Discovery Channel
- *Tales of the Living Dead*, National Geographic Channel
- *The Miracle Mummy*, National Geographic Channel
- *Jungles: The Beast Within*, ITV
- The *Indiana Jones* movies (of course, they're not actually true!)

Project-related Websites

- bannonwatblog.squarespace.com/
- jcu.edu.au/sass/aas/projects/JCUPRD_025764.html
- otago.ac.nz/Anthropology/Angkor
- archaeology.about.com/od/thailand/a/ban_non_wat.htm
- Dr. Chang's "Archeology at Ban Non Wat" Facebook page: facebook.com/group.php?gid=35650297407

Project Field Report

Each Earthwatch Institute-supported project submits a report on the past year's research and results to Earthwatch, generally on an annual basis. The most recent field report for this project may be available online through earthwatch.org/FieldReportpdf/Chang_FieldReport2010.pdf. Note that reports are not available for all projects.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Please see Earthwatch's Volunteer Resources pages for additional information on:

- Travel agencies with whom Earthwatch volunteers can get preferential rates
- Recommended kit and clothing providers
- Recommended travel booksellers

Volunteers who sign up through our U.S. office, visit: earthwatch.org/volunteerresources

Volunteers who sign up through our U.K. office, visit: earthwatch.org/europe/volunteerresources

Project Conditions

Please show this section to a doctor when he/she is completing the Health section of your Earthwatch Participation Form. Be sure to discuss vaccination requirements with the doctor well in advance of your departure date. See the Health Information section for vaccination information.

To the doctor:

This patient has volunteered to join a field research team that has specific physical demands of which you and the patient should be aware. **We need your accurate evaluation of this patient's ability to meet the conditions detailed below in order to care for his/her health and safety, and to assess that he/she can participate fully and effectively.**

General Conditions

The site is about 160 meters above sea level and is characterized by low humidity. The Earthwatch expeditions will take place during the area's dry season. As a result of the dry winds characteristic of this season, the temperature can drop to as low as 50°F/10°C at night and fine wind-blown dust can be an irritant on site. Warm clothing is necessary for the chilly evenings and mornings, particularly in December and January. Days should be sunny, with temperatures reaching the mid 80s°F/upper 20s°C. It can be quite windy in late December and early January and it can get quite hot (and increasingly humid) in late February and March.

The weather is expected to vary within the limits below.

Conditions during December, January and February	
Humidity	34% to 51%
Temperature range	50°F/10°C to 92°F/33°C
Altitude	525 ft/160 m to 729 ft/222 m
Rainfall	0.6 in/1.5 cm per month

Physical Demands

Volunteers must be able to:

- sit and bend in one place for a long period of time
- carry their own personal gear (camera, water bottle, etc.).

Because of the variety of fieldwork, different fitness levels can be accommodated. Data entry and working with artefacts will allow participants to sit in the shade and move about as necessary. Those making pots will again be sitting in the shade most of the time, but will require some upper body strength to work with the clay.

Those who join the survey and mapping teams will encounter greater physical demands. This may involve walking several kilometres a day over rough land. It will be hot and attention to detail will be required. Long trousers, long-sleeved shirts, a hat and good walking shoes are recommended.

Volunteers who participate in the experimental excavations will need to be able to sit or kneel in one place for long periods of time and be comfortable climbing in and out of pits of up to one meter deep.

All participants should drink plenty of water during the day to avoid dehydration.

A porcelain, squat-style toilet is available at Ban Non Wat. Those working away from the base may need to be adaptable regarding toilet facilities and use the great outdoors as necessary.

Below are the expected demands of the project, but please keep in mind that conditions may change and the project could potentially be more or less strenuous than the chart indicates.

	Workload/Intensity
Sitting	Six hours per day
Bending	Up to five hours per day
Hiking	Up to two hours per day
Walking	Up to four hours per day
Carrying	Daypack with personal supplies and some surveying equipment (e.g. tripods, etc.). Minimum of five kg/eleven lbs.
Digging	Up to three hours per day

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

If you feel ill once you return from your trip, make sure you inform your doctor that you have recently returned from a tropical region.

Hazard Type	Associated Risks and Precautions
Transportation	Standards of driving are different in Thailand than in the U.S. and other countries. In Thailand, people drive on the left hand side of the road. Drivers hired to transport volunteers are careful. Volunteers are not permitted to drive. Volunteers must be very cautious when crossing roads in Phimai on foot. Participants are transported to the field site in a songtao (a large pick-up truck outfitted with bench seats along the sides and a roof in the back); there are no seatbelts in the back of the songtao and the rear of the vehicle is open. Volunteers must stay seated, keep away from the open back, and be aware of themselves and their belongings when traveling via songtao. Seatbelts should be worn whenever available, particularly on the drive from Bangkok to Phimai and back.
Excavation site	While any excavations completed this season are unlikely to be deeper than one meter, volunteers should still be very careful not to go too close to the edge. Look where you tread at all times to avoid twisting or otherwise injuring your ankles by stepping into a posthole or pit. It is also important to watch where you step to avoid destroying evidence. Be aware of string lines around the excavation areas in order to avoid tripping. Be aware of buckets of soil and other items being moved into or out of the excavation units. These could fall, causing injury. Use extreme caution when climbing up and down the ladders to the excavation pits. Fine wind-blown dust can be an irritant on site. At the time of year of the expeditions, local rice farmers burn their paddies to prepare them for planting, and atmospheric ash from burning rice stubble can also be an irritant. Volunteers can bring and use dust masks or similar protection.
Dogs	There have not been problems with dog bites in the past; however, local dogs are always present and visitors should avoid stray dogs and cats at all times. Dogs can become more aggressive at night, so particular care should be taken then. Rabies is common in stray dogs and cats in Thailand. Volunteers may wish to discuss rabies vaccination with their physicians and any participant bitten by a dog or cat will need to receive rabies treatment the same day. See the <i>Health Information</i> section for more information.

Animals/Plants/ Insects	There are stinging scorpions and millipedes, and venomous snakes, including cobras, in the area. Villagers are able to identify dangerous species and deal with them quickly. Team members should be careful to avoid dark, damp, quiet places (in and around the bases of trees, amongst bushes/hedges etc.), be careful in storage areas that haven't been disturbed recently, and especially avoid any natural looking holes in the ground (including within the excavation pits). In general, if you are unfamiliar with an insect or animal, do not touch or disturb it.
Climate/Weather	Though the participants working at the Ban Non Wat base will be protected from the sun, it can be hot and those working away from the base will be exposed to the sun. Be sure to drink plenty of water throughout the day and wear sunscreen and appropriate clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat and/or scarf. Do not overwork yourself when jetlagged or tired. If the weather is tiring you, tell a staff member directly and you may wish to rest or change your task.
Slips/Trips	Volunteers should bring good walking shoes or boots if they wish to participate in the survey and mapping work as rough terrain will be encountered and volunteers should ensure they keep checking where they are walking to avoid tripping over holes or rice terraces.
Burns	The actual open firing of pots will be managed by project staff. Volunteers will need to carefully follow all instructions by supervisors during this process, not approach the fire during firing, and wait until given the "all clear" before picking up any of the fired pots (usually the next day).
Tap Water	Do not drink tap water. Clean drinking water and ice will be provided.
Political/Social/ Cultural	Volunteers are encouraged not to engage in debate or comment on politics in Thailand (outside of general everyday conversation). The royal family is held in very high regard in the country, and their reputation is legally protected. Again, any debate or comment may be offensive and is best avoided.
Project Tasks/ Equipment	Each task will have its own risks which will be discussed when they are assigned. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your supervisor for clarification and do not go ahead with any job with which you feel at all uncomfortable. We suggest long trousers and long sleeved shirts, along with good walking shoes for those on surveying and mapping duties.
Personal Security	Pro and anti-government supporters have been staging protests and demonstrations throughout Thailand over the past few years, although these are generally centered on prominent government, public or media locations within Bangkok. Such demonstrations have on occasion turned violent. While these demonstrations are very local in nature and visitors are not generally targeted, the risk of incidental violence exists. Avoid any protests, demonstrations or large public gatherings; do not stop to photograph such gatherings. Be aware of your surroundings and follow advice from local authorities or hotel personnel. It is sensible not to develop any sort of romantic relationships with local people, which have the potential to create problems. When in public areas, particularly at popular tourist destinations, do not flaunt money or valuables and be aware of your surroundings and belongings at all times.
Swimming	A certified lifeguard will not be available and swimming is at your own risk. Do not swim alone or at night. Swimming is not allowed after consumption of alcohol. Inform a staff member when you will be swimming. Swimming will only be permitted in the hotel swimming pool.
Disease	Diseases found in Thailand include Avian influenza, tuberculosis, cholera, malaria, dengue fever, filariasis, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, schistosomiasis, hepatitis, and typhoid. Many of these diseases come from insects. Ensure that you wear long trousers and sleeves and apply insect repellent at dawn and dusk to avoid being bitten. Please see the <i>Health Information</i> section for vaccination recommendations. Most diseases are prevented with basic safety cautions. Please see the CDC (www.cdc.gov) or WHO (www.who.int) websites for more information.

Traveler's diarrhea	Traveler's diarrhea affects 20-50% of all international travelers. Always wash your hands with soap and water or a hand sanitizer before eating, and drink only filtered or bottled water and avoid ice (although ice supplied on the project should be safe). You should also carry an over-the-counter anti-diarrheal medication in your personal first aid kit. Ensure all food is well cooked before consumption and do not eat fruit or vegetables unless they have been peeled or cooked. Speak to your doctor about other options for treating traveler's diarrhea and see the ISOS or CDC websites for advice on avoiding this condition.
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HEALTH INFORMATION

See internationalsos.com for information on the current health conditions in Thailand. At the homepage, enter Earthwatch's member identification number: 14ACPA000075. Under "Select Resource" choose "English Country Guide," and then select Thailand from the list.

Routine Immunizations

All volunteers should make sure to have the following up-to-date immunizations: DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and varicella (if you have not already had chicken pox). Please be sure your tetanus shot is current.

Project Vaccinations

Medical decisions are the responsibility of each volunteer and the following are recommendations only. While Earthwatch can provide details regarding suggested vaccinations, we are not a medical organization and decisions about which vaccinations to receive should be made between you and a doctor. Health conditions around the world are constantly changing, so keep informed and consult your physician, a local travel health clinic, the U.S. Center for Disease Control (cdc.gov), the World Health Organization (who.int), and International SOS (see above) for the latest health information for travelers. Please consult a physician for guidance on vaccinations if you intend to travel to other parts of the country.

Vaccination chart available on ISOS member site (English Country Guide, medical summary).

	Required for Entry	Recommended for Health Reasons
Typhoid		Seek advice from a doctor
Yellow fever	X - if traveling from countries or region where it is endemic, a Certificate of Vaccination is required.	Seek advice from a doctor
Hepatitis A		X
Hepatitis B		X
Japanese Encephalitis		Seek advice from a doctor
Rabies		Seek advice from a doctor

Advice Regarding Diseases

- *Malaria*: Malaria is present in the area; however the risk is low during the dry season. Volunteers should seek advice from their own doctor regarding anti-malarial medications. It is important to avoid mosquito bites wherever possible with mosquito repellants and long-sleeved shirts and trousers in the early morning and evening.
- *Rabies*: Vaccinations are generally recommended for this expedition given the potential contact with wildlife such as bats and the prevalence of loose and stray dogs. The rabies pre-exposure vaccination consists of three doses over a 28-day period. Please be sure to consult your physician or travel health clinic well in advance to ensure you have time for the full vaccination series. If you have previously been vaccinated, you must have a medical professional check your antibody levels; a booster shot may be required. Rabies is a fatal disease. Treatment after rabies exposure requires immediate care (within 24 hours). This type of rapid response will be available to volunteers on this project at the local general hospital in Phimai. Pre-exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for post-exposure medical attention and treatment, but it does provide additional protection against the disease in event of a delay in treatment. In addition, any bites or scratches should be immediately and thoroughly washed with soap and clean water and a topical povidone-iodine solution or ethanol.
- *Tuberculosis*: The WHO estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with the bacterium (*M.tuberculosis*) that causes tuberculosis (TB). Incidence of tuberculosis is higher in developing countries, particularly in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. In general, approximately 10% of persons infected with *M. tuberculosis* are at risk for developing active TB during their lifetimes. TB is considered highly treatable with medications that are of relatively low toxicity and cost. Volunteers returning from developing countries are encouraged to have a (PPD)-tuberculin skin-test to screen for potential infection.
- *Dengue fever*: Dengue fever is endemic in more than 100 countries in Africa, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific and can occur throughout the year. It is present in Thailand, however, not a high risk during the dry season. Globally there has been a 30-fold increase in the number of reported cases of dengue. Dengue fever is a flu-like virus spread primarily by day-biting mosquitoes. It is characterized by fever, headache, rash, vomiting and severe muscle pains. There is no vaccine and mosquito bites should be avoided whenever possible. Insect repellent and long sleeves and pants are highly recommended. There is no treatment for standard dengue fever other than acetaminophen (avoid aspirin), fluids and rest. It is usually resolved after about two weeks. However, hemorrhagic dengue fever, characterized by bleeding and shock, can occasionally occur and requires medical care.
- *Avian influenza (bird flu)*: Bird flu is an infection caused by avian (bird) influenza (flu) viruses. These viruses occur naturally among birds. Wild birds worldwide carry the viruses in their intestines but usually do not get sick from them. However, bird flu is very contagious among birds and can make some domesticated birds, including chickens, ducks and turkeys, very sick, often resulting in death. During an outbreak of bird flu among poultry, there is possible risk to people who have contact with infected birds or surfaces that have been contaminated with excretions from infected birds. The risk to humans is generally low, but several cases of human infection occurred between 2004 and 2006; no cases of human infection have been confirmed in Thailand since 2006. Travelers to Thailand should avoid contact with live poultry or pigs, including live animal markets or farms.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS OF SPECIAL CONCERN

Condition	Concerns and Precautions
Lack of physical fitness and/or bone or joint problems	A certain degree of stamina is required for survey, and strong knees and backs are important. Some physical limitations can be accommodated, but severe limitations to fitness and/or mobility will make participation difficult or impossible. Please speak with your physician and Earthwatch.
Back problems	See above. Also, this project will involve sitting for long periods of time in vehicles traveling over bumpy roads, which may aggravate back problems.
Heart conditions	Participation will be difficult or impossible. Please speak with your physician.
Strong allergic reactions to insect bites, dust or similar	Enjoyable participation may be difficult. It is advised that you have appropriate medication on hand (antihistamines, at least two Epi-pens, etc.) and have discussed the situation with your physician. Please inform Earthwatch as well as the project staff of any allergies.
Impaired hearing	Because of the high humidity, people using a hearing aid device may find it doesn't work properly. You should consider purchasing a hearing aid dehumidifier. See http://www.shopmash.com/AIDS_TO_DAILY_LIVING/HEARING_ASSIST_DEVICES/HEI400587/product.aspx for one example.

Additional Health Information Resources

- Travel health website: mdtravelhealth.com
- The Travel Doctor: tmvc.com.au
- Australian Department of Health and Aging: health.gov.au
- Hospital for Tropical Diseases: thehtd.org
- Traveller's Healthline Advisory Service Tel: (020) 7950-7799
- MASTA Travelers' Healthline (U.K.) Tel: (0906) 8-224100 (within the U.K.)

EMERGENCIES IN THE FIELD

Proximity to Medical Care

Physician, nurse, or EMT on staff	Project staff are not medical professionals
Staff certified in safety training	CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation): Dr. Chang and Ms. Duke First Aid: Dr. Chang and Ms. Duke
Nearest hospital and/or clinic	Phimai Medical Hospital 541/1 Mu 1 Anantachinda Road Phimai, Nakhon Ratchasima 30110 Tel: +66-44-47-1782 and +66-44-47-1755 Distance from project site: forty-minute drive (five min. from Phimai Inn) Ratchasima Thonburi Hospital 81/1 Mitraphab Road Muang, Nakhon Ratchasima, 30000 Tel: +66-44-26-2000 Fax: +66-44-25-6421 Distance from project site: one-hour drive

COMMUNICATIONS

Emergency Communications in the Field

Short distance VHF radios will be used in the field from time to time; however, most communication between groups will be by cell phone.

The emergency contact number at Earthwatch headquarters in the U.K. is +44 (0) 7900-895-752 (see *Emergency Contacts* for calling instructions). You may also call Earthwatch in the U.S. at +1 (978) 461-0081.

Personal Communications

Project staff will have cell phones on site for emergency communication to and from anywhere in the world. Cell phone coverage in the research area can be patchy but is usually available. If participants have an unlocked GSM phone local SIM cards can be purchased in Phimai for a few hundred baht. Almost everyone you meet will have a cell phone of one sort or another.

Family and friends of Earthwatch volunteers should be aware that personal communication with outsiders is not always possible while participating in an expedition. Earthwatch encourages volunteers to minimize outgoing calls; likewise, family and friends should restrict calls to urgent messages only. Measures have been taken to ensure that appropriate communication tools are available in cases of emergency.

All volunteers are asked to remember that Earthwatch expeditions offer a rare chance to escape from hearing ringing phones and others' phone conversations, and to regulate their cell-phone use with respect for fellow volunteers and staff.

Contact Information

If necessary, volunteers can be reached via the contact information below.

Address	Phimai Inn 33/1 By Pass Rd Amphoe Phimai Nakhon Ratchasima 30110 THAILAND	Mail can take up to 2 weeks and is not recommended.
Phone	+66 (0) 44 47 1175 or +66 (0) 44 28 7228	Volunteers may be contacted at the Inn for emergencies only; however, many staff members do not speak English
Mobile	+66 (0) 8 2151 3304	Dr. Chang's mobile phone, to be used in emergencies only
Email	Volunteers' personal email addresses	Email is available in the Phimai Inn foyer with some Internet cafes also available in Phimai (approximately twenty-minute walk from the linn)

Earthwatch Institute Policies & Participant Rights and Responsibilities

This document contains important information concerning Earthwatch Institute policies and participant rights and responsibilities for inclusion on an Earthwatch expedition. Please read this document thoroughly and sign the Liability Release section of your Earthwatch Participation Form to indicate that you understand and accept the risks inherent to your expedition and the policies, rights, and responsibilities enumerated in this document. Participants will not be permitted to partake in an expedition until Earthwatch has received the signed release form.

Intellectual Property Rights

It is permissible to share photos, videos, and stories of your expedition with family, friends, local media, and in a public forum. Sharing your new perspectives and experiences is welcomed and encouraged.

However, please recognize that all information, data, and images shared or gathered in the course of your expedition's field work become the intellectual property of the Earthwatch scientist (ES). Co-opting or plagiarism of data, images or information gathered during an expedition for use in a scientific thesis, masters or PhD work, or for profit or for the academic or business use of a third party without the permission of the ES is strictly prohibited. Please be aware that data gathered during the interviewing of local people becomes the intellectual property of the ES. Earthwatch scientists have the right to place additional restrictions on your ability to share data or certain research-related images.

Conversely, an Earthwatch scientist may give written permission to use data and images for academic or profitable activity. Please be sure to ask what is acceptable to the Earthwatch scientist.

Fellows or scholarship recipients are sometimes required to submit a written report reflecting what they have learned on a project, sometimes as a step toward developing a curriculum. Earthwatch scientists have the right but not obligation to review and edit materials involving information gathered on one of their expeditions.

Discrimination

Earthwatch does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or any other reason prohibited by applicable law and respects participants' right to privacy. However, you must be aware that local laws in countries in which Earthwatch operates may not be anti-discriminatory and that the possibilities exist that local residents may not have an awareness of best practice regarding discrimination.

Discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation will not be tolerated on Earthwatch teams. Disruptive behavior, or verbal, physical or any other type of abuse or harassment will also not be tolerated. Violation of Earthwatch's non-discrimination policy is grounds for expulsion from the program without a refund.

Intimate relationships

Earthwatch scientists, their staff, their colleagues, and their associates are prohibited from becoming romantically involved with participants during the entire duration of the period that the team is in the field. Romantic relationships that may otherwise seem permissible may eventually create an unpleasant or unproductive work environment and are therefore strongly discouraged for the duration of an Earthwatch project.

Sexual Harassment

Please recognize that the relationship that exists between Earthwatch scientists and staff and participants is analogous to the student-teacher relationship. Therefore, please be aware of the following policies.

Sexual harassment of participants by the Earthwatch scientist or Earthwatch staff is prohibited. Likewise, sexual harassment of other participants, Earthwatch field staff, or local people by participants is also prohibited.

Sexual harassment infringes on an individual's right to an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtones of conduct either verbal or physical. Sexual harassment does not mean occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature.

Sexual harassment refers to conduct which is offensive, which harms morale, or which interferes with the effectiveness of Earthwatch expedition teams; such conduct is prohibited. Lewd or vulgar remarks, suggestive comments, displaying derogatory posters, cartoons or drawings, pressure for dates or sexual favors and unacceptable physical contact or exposure are examples of what can constitute harassment. No one should be touched in areas that otherwise would be covered by a bathing suit. It is important to realize that what may not be offensive to you, may be offensive to participants, the local population, and Earthwatch field staff.

Any individual who feels subjected to sexual harassment or has any knowledge of such behavior should report it at once to his or her PI or to Earthwatch staff members. All Earthwatch scientists and Field Team Leaders (FTLs) will notify Earthwatch immediately when an accusation of sexual harassment or abuse is made or witnessed.

All reports of sexual harassment will be handled with discretion and will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. Any participant who is found to have engaged in conduct constituting sexual harassment will be immediately removed from the expedition at his or her own expense. If a minor is immediately involved in allegations of sexual harassment, his or her parents will be contacted.

Drugs

Laws on drug use in most countries are severe and may carry lengthy imprisonment or death penalties. I understand and accept that the manufacture, possession, use, purchase and/or sale of illegal drugs or other illegal substances while on an Earthwatch expedition is strictly prohibited. Prescription drugs may only be purchased and used by the individual indicated on the prescription in keeping with their intended use guidelines.

Alcohol

Local statutes, customs, practices, ordinances, and regulations with regard to the use, possession, sale, or purchase of alcohol are applicable to all participants and project staff in Earthwatch expeditions. Participants and project staff on Earthwatch expeditions must comply with the law of the country in which a project is located regarding the minimum age required to consume alcohol. In addition, restriction on the use, possession, sale, or purchase of alcohol may be set by the Earthwatch scientist. Any restrictions on the consumption of alcohol should be clearly outlined by the project staff in the briefing to participants at the start of the project, and in the Expedition Briefing.

Consumption or possession of alcohol or smoking is not permitted on any Earthwatch Teen Team, regardless of local law.

Excessive consumption of alcohol by staff or participants is not acceptable on any Earthwatch project. Intoxication can jeopardize personal safety, in addition to the safety of the team. It can also cause delay, and hinder response in the event of a crisis or emergency situation.

Earthwatch staff and the Earthwatch scientist have the discretion to remove individuals from the project who consume alcohol in a time and manner that endanger the safety and/or productivity of the expedition.

Minors

Earthwatch considers participants under eighteen (18) years of age to be minors. Minors are not permitted to participate on any of Earthwatch's standard teams unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian in which case the minimum age is sixteen (16). Minors on regular teams do not receive additional guidance or supervision from Earthwatch beyond what is offered to the adult participants. The number of minors on regular teams is limited to two (2) per team. Earthwatch has developed teams specifically for 16 and 17 year olds ("Teen Teams") as well as teams specifically for families ("Family Teams") with children as young as 10 years old. These teams focus on the same research activities and have the same expectations as our regular teams, but with more facilitation and support. Exceptions for some projects are made at the discretion of Earthwatch and the Earthwatch scientist. Due to a more in-depth screening process for certain programs that select candidates based on school year rather than age, there may be 18 year olds fielding on the same team as 16 and 17 year olds. Please be aware that some Earthwatch projects do not allow participation by minors in any circumstance.

Participants and Driving

Participants are not allowed to drive project vehicles or aircraft during an expedition. In select circumstances, participants may be able to drive boats under the direct supervision by project staff. These circumstances are pre-determined by project staff in collaboration with Earthwatch. Participants must respect the restrictions for boat driving in place for each project.

If a project environment is such that participants can drive their own vehicles to the rendezvous, those who have driven themselves to the project may not drive their own vehicles to, from or for project activities, including the transport of project equipment after arriving at the site.

Participants who have driven themselves to the project may choose to utilize their own vehicle during recreational time, but project staff will brief them on the driving restrictions. All driving during recreational time is done at your own risk.

Please be advised that the only exception to the above driving restrictions is emergency situations.

Riding in other participants' vehicles is not covered under the participants' insurance policy for the expedition. Riding in another participant's vehicle is done at a participant's own risk.

In the Event of an Emergency

In the event of emergencies, judgments must be made by Earthwatch field staff and participants. While Earthwatch makes an effort to ensure that qualified people make the most informed decisions possible, occasionally first aid may be administered and other immediate steps taken by expedition participants who are not licensed medical providers.

Each Earthwatch expedition has safety protocols and emergency procedures in place. Earthwatch encourages team members (the field staff and participants) to exercise their best judgment with regard to their own safety and the safety of other team members. Other participants may perform "Good Samaritan" actions, or actions taken to assist fellow participants during emergency situations in the field. However, Earthwatch does not encourage or expect you to jeopardize your own safety or that of others in attempting to rescue or assist your fellow team members.

Right of Refusal

Earthwatch reserves the right to refuse an applicant's participation on Earthwatch projects at any time and to terminate any work being done by a participant and require the participant to vacate the project site if any of the Earthwatch Expedition Team in his or her absolute discretion considers it appropriate. In this event, the participant (and his/ her parent/ guardian, if appropriate) will be responsible for arranging and paying for any accommodation, travel or other arrangements which may be necessary following the termination of a participant's involvement in a project, for whatever reason and may not be eligible for a refund.

Earthwatch and the project staff may not refuse a participant for discriminatory reasons (race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other reason prohibited by applicable law). However, participants may be denied in the interest of team compatibility. Earthwatch will make reasonable efforts to accommodate participants with disabilities and the organization endeavors to find appropriate expeditions for those participants that have physical limitations. Refusal of a participant is an unusual event and is generally due to either an applicant's failure to meet the essential eligibility requirements of a particular project, or in the interest of team compatibility. In the event that an applicant is refused participation for health reasons, Earthwatch will refund in full any deposit or payment made toward the expedition.

Earthwatch scientists have the right to refuse special requests, such as media visits (film, photography or print), special groups or teams (students, donors, etc.), if they conflict with Earthwatch scientist schedules, safety, research objectives or general performance of the team.

Any participant found in violation of any of the policies described in this document ("Earthwatch Institute Policies & Participant Rights and Responsibilities") is subject to removal from the team at their own expense. By signing the Liability Release section of your Earthwatch Participation Form, participants are indicating that they have read and understand the policies in this document. Removal of a participant from a team is at the discretion of the Earthwatch scientist or Field Team Leader and Earthwatch staff. In addition, Earthwatch will support the right of the scientist to send participants away from a project once in the field should their behavior compromise the safety, research objectives or general performance of the team, or if the participant has violated a stated policy. In the event that a minor is dismissed from a project, Earthwatch will contact the participant's parents or legal guardian prior to their dismissal. Should a participant be removed from a team, he/she is responsible for any or all costs associated with departure from the team and will receive no refund of the share of costs of the expedition nor any expenses incurred in participation on the expedition.

(November 2010)

Expedition Packing Checklist

Required Items

- This Expedition Briefing
- Photocopies of your passport, flight itinerary and credit cards in case the originals are lost or stolen; the copies should be packed separately from the original documents
- Passport and/or visa (if necessary)
- Certification of vaccination (if necessary)
- Documentation for travel by minors (if necessary) (see *Volunteers Under 18 Years of Age* in the *Travel Planning* section)
- Calling card/mobile phone (with international calling capabilities if applicable)
- Credit card that may be used (internationally, if applicable) in the event of an emergency (travel delays, etc.)

Clothing/Footwear for Fieldwork

- Be sure to bring your Earthwatch T-shirt and remember to wear it, as appropriate, throughout your expedition
- Lightweight, quick-drying, long-sleeved shirts and pants/trousers (clothing that can be layered is recommended)
- A warm sweater/sweatshirt for chilly mornings
- Shorts and T-shirts for warm days
- Comfortable, lightweight, sturdy walking shoes or boots for survey work
- Wide-brimmed sunhat

Clothing/Footwear for Leisure

- One set of clothing to keep clean for end of expedition
- One set of clothing for evening meals
- Comfortable open footwear is popular, though in the evenings mosquitoes can be a problem

Field Supplies

- Small daypack/rucksack
- Drybag or plastic sealable bags (good for protecting equipment such as camera from dust, humidity, and water)
- Insect repellent spray
- Two one-liter water bottle(s)

Bedding and Bathing

- Note:** Blankets, pillows, bed linens and towels will be provided by the hotel.

Personal Supplies

- Personal toiletries (biodegradable soaps and shampoos are encouraged)
- Roll of toilet paper (always handy when not at the hotel or onsite)
- Antibacterial wipes or lotion (good for cleaning hands while in the field)
- Personal first aid kit (e.g. anti-diarrhea pills, antibiotics, antiseptic, itch-relief, pain reliever, bandages, blister covers, etc.) and personal medications
- Sunscreen lotion with SPF 30 or higher

Miscellaneous

- Spending money
- Camera, film/memory card(s), extra camera battery (if you bring a digital camera, bring your interface cables for downloading)

Optional Items

- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries and extra bulb
- Earplugs
- A good archaeological trowel. The project will supply most excavating gear, but if you would like to bring your own trowel, the companies Spear & Jackson (U.K.-based) and Marshalltown (U.S.-based) both produce excellent archaeologist's trowels.
- Light work gloves in order to prevent blisters when excavating
- A flat foam kneeling pad of the sort available at gardening shops for your comfort while digging. These are usually more convenient and comfortable than strap-on kneepads.
- Paper dust masks or a scarf to block dust
- Travel guidebook (recommended)
- Books, games, journal, art supplies, etc. for recreational/rest time and travel
- Small gifts, such as key rings. These are popularly exchanged in Thailand. People also love to see family photos.
- Swim suit and goggles (the pool can be highly chlorinated)
- Travel binoculars and bird guide, if interested
- Some basic language tapes—it is never too late to learn a few words

Note: *Required and Optional Items lists are accurate to the best of Earthwatch's knowledge at the time of publication.*